

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A receptacle comprising:
a body, said body comprising an end wall, said end wall having a periphery, said body comprising a join plane extending across said end wall; and
a neck having an axis, said neck connected to said end wall, wherein said end wall comprises at least one step, said step extending in a direct of said join plane over at least a major part of the distance between said neck and said periphery of said end wall, said end wall further comprising at least one rib, said rib extending the entire distance from said periphery to said join plane, said end wall further comprising at least one groove, said groove extending adjacent to said rib from said join plane towards said periphery.
~~comprising an end wall having a periphery and a neck connected to said end wall, said body and neck being made by the process of using a mold comprising first and second portions configured to define therebetween a join plane and introducing plastic material into said mold to form said body and said neck, and said mold being configured to provide at least one step on said end wall that extends along said join plane over at least a major part of the distance between said neck and said periphery of said end wall.~~

2. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said body has a cross-sectional shape that is oblong, said cross-sectional shape having a major axis contained in said join plane.

3. (original) A receptacle according to claim 2, wherein said oblong cross-sectional shape is elliptical.

4. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said step extends from said neck towards said periphery on at least one side of said neck.

5. (original) A receptacle according to claim 4, wherein said neck includes two sides, and wherein said at least one step

comprises a pair of steps, and further wherein each of said pair of steps extends from said neck towards said periphery on each of said two sides of said neck.

6. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said step extends from said periphery towards said neck on at least one side of said neck.

7. (original) A receptacle according to claim 6, wherein said neck includes two sides, and wherein said at least one step comprises a pair of steps, and further wherein each of said pair of steps extends from said periphery towards said neck on each of said two sides of said neck.

8. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said neck includes two sides, and wherein said at least one step comprises a pair of steps, and further wherein each of said steps extends from said neck all the way to said periphery on each of said two sides of said neck.

9. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said end wall includes at least one portion in relief, said portion extending perpendicularly to said join plane.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said end wall includes two ribs, said ribs extending on said end wall, each of said ribs on a respective opposite side of a midplane of said body of the receptacle and each extending perpendicularly to said join plane.

12. (original) A receptacle according to claim 11, wherein said two ribs interconnect with said neck.

13. (original) A receptacle according to claim 11, wherein said two ribs have a height, said height increasing as said ribs approach said neck.

14. (previously presented) A receptacle according to claim 1, further including four regions, said regions each occupying substantially one-fourth of said end wall, and further

wherein any two adjacent ones of said four regions retain axial positions as measured along an axis of said neck are different.

15. (original) A receptacle according to claim 14, wherein two of said four regions which are diametrically opposite each other about said axis of said neck have substantially the same axial position.

16. (original) A receptacle according to claim 14, wherein two of said four regions which are adjacent each other on the same side of said join plane form between them said step.

17. (original) A receptacle according to claim 16, wherein said step is situated in a midplane of said body which is perpendicular to said join plane and includes said axis of said neck.

18. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said end wall includes at least two regions, and wherein said step is formed between said two regions of said end wall, said regions forming an angle between each other when the receptacle is observed in a direction perpendicular to said join plane.

19. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said end wall includes a ledge, said ledge being located at a periphery of said end wall.

20. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein said neck includes an annular bead.

21. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle includes an axis of symmetry, and wherein the receptacle is symmetrical in shape about said axis of symmetry.

22. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is formed by blowing a plastic material.

23. (original) A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is provided with a dispenser device, said dispenser device being affixed onto said neck by snap-fastening.

24. (withdrawn) A receptacle comprising:

a body having a cross-section oblong in shape and defining a major axis, said body comprising an end wall, said end wall having a periphery, and said body including a bead of material projecting on an outside surface of said body and extending along a plane containing said major axis, and

a neck connected to said end wall, wherein said end wall includes at least one step, said step extending in said plane over at least a major part of the distance between said neck and said periphery of said end wall.

25. (withdrawn) A receptacle according to claim 24, wherein the body is elongate and has a longitudinal axis, and wherein said bead of material extends along said longitudinal axis.

26. (withdrawn) A receptacle comprising:

a body comprising an end wall having a periphery;

a neck connected to said end wall, wherein said end wall includes at least one step extending over at least a major part of a distance between said neck and said periphery of said end wall;

at least one rib extending the entire distance from a first portion of said periphery to said step; and

at least one groove adjacent to said rib and extending from said step to a second portion of said periphery opposite to said first portion of said periphery.